

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: DPC, MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA: DPC PERMREPS' MEETING NOVEMBER 25

REF: A. USNATO 6384 DTG 211910Z NOV 75

B. USNATO 6158 DTG 121940Z NOV 75

C. STATE 278473 DTG 250124Z NOV 75

D. USNATO 6452 DTG 251750Z NOV 75

SUMMARY: AT DPC MEETING NOVEMBER 25, PERMREPS APPROVED AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 1975 MINISTERIAL MEETING PROVIDED IN PO/75/132 (REF A). THE ITEM ON STANDARDIZATION WAS RETAINED; THE PAPER FOR DPC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WILL INCLUDE STATUS REPORTS ON CNAD ACTIVITIES AND NMA INTEROPERABILITY STUDIES. WITH THE US RESERVING, THE DPC PLACED THE RESTRICTED SESSION AS THE FIRST ITEM ON THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION TO LIFT RESERVATION ON TIMING OF RESTRICTED SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING NOVEMBER 25 DPC CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT MINISTERIAL AGENDA (REF A), DSYG PANSO OPENED DISCUSSION BY COMMENTING THAT ONLY THREE ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE ON THE AGENDA REQUIRED DISCUSSION: WHETHER TO KEEP THE STANDARDIZATION ITEM ON THE AGENDA, WHEN TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CONDUCT THE RESTRICTED SESSION, AND SUBSTANCE OF THE RESTRICTED SESSION.

2. MENZIES (CANADA) SAID THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF PERMREPS

COULD HEAR FROM UK AMBASSADOR WHAT SORT OF PRESENTATION MINISTER MASON HAS IN MIND AS EUROGROUP CHAIRMAN (AGENDA ITEM I), SINCE HIS STATEMENT MIGHT TIE IN WITH BOTH DPC AND NAC MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS OF STANDARDIZATION. KILLICK (UK) REPLIED THAT MASON'S STATEMENT AS EUROGROUP CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ONE OF "FORMAL TIDINESS", NOT SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT FROM AMBASSADOR THEODOROPOLOUS' STATEMENT TO NAC PERMREPS FOLLOWING HAGUE MEETING (REF B). KILLICK CONTINUED THAT THE UK FAVORS REMOVING THE BRACKETS FROM AROUND ITEM V (STANDARDIZATION) "WITHOUT PREJUDICING HOW OR WHETHER THE COUNCIL DELIBERATES STANDARDIZATION." IN RESPONSE TO MENZIES' QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MASON WOULD GIVE A "FRESH ACCOUNT" OF EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES SINCE THE MEETING AT THE HAGUE, TO INCLUDE ANY DEVELOPMENTS AT THE DECEMBER 8 EUROGROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING, KILLICK RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. ADMIRAL HILL-NORTON (CHAIRMAN, MILITARY COMMITTEE) STATED THAT THE STANDARDIZATION ITEM SHOULD REMAIN ON THE DPC AGENDA SINCE DISCUSSIONS IN THE DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING WILL BE ON A MORE TECHNICAL LEVEL THAN THOSE IN THE COUNCIL.

3. DRAWING ON REF C, BRUCE (US) SUPPORTED REMOVAL OF THE BRACKETS AROUND THE STANDARDIZATION ITEM. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE REPORT WHICH MINISTERS WOULD HAVE BEFORE THEM IN THE DPC WOULD INCLUDE THE STATUS OF MAJOR CNAD STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS AND OF STUDIES ON INTEROPERABILITY THAT THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE IN PROGRESS. CONTINUING, BRUCE STATED THAT THE US WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE RESTRICTED SESSION FOLLOW THE SYG'S "SUMMARY APPRAISAL" AND THE STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, SO THAT MINISTERS COULD RESPOND INFORMALLY TO THOSE IMPORTANT STATEMENTS. HE SAID THAT HE HOPED THE SUMMARY APPRAISAL AND CMC STATEMENT WOULD SET THE TONE FOR A FULL AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, WHICH COULD BEST BE SERVED BY CONDUCTING THE RESTRICTED SESSION EARLY, WITH MINISTERS ARRIVING FRESH FROM THE CAPITALS, BEFORE BEING TREATED TO THE NORMAL ROUND OF STATUS REPORTS AND PREPARED DOCUMENTS. HE STATED US BELIEF THAT THE BEST TIME FOR THE BROAD OVERVIEW (RESTRICTED SESSION) IS EARLY IN THE AGENDA, BEFORE MINISTERS MUST TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO SPECIFIC, LESSER ITEMS. FINALLY, HE NOTED THAT HE CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO TELL HIS COLLEAGUES BY DECEMBER 1 WHAT SUBJECTS SECRETARY RUMSFELD MIGHT RAISE.

4. KRAPF (FRG) AND DE STAERCKE(BELGIUM) SUPPORTED US AND OTHERS ON REMOVAL OF BRACKETS FROM AROUND STANDARDIZATION ITEM, SINCE, IN DE STAERCKE'S WORDS, STANDARDIZATION IS MORE THAN A POLITICAL PROBLEM. DE STAERCKE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DISCUSSION "AT 14" (SIC) SHOULD NOT COMPROMISE DISCUSSION AT 15. IN RESPONSE TO MENZIES' POINT ON PROGRESS OF EUROGROUP SINCE THE HAGUE, DE STAERCKE STATED THAT EUROGROUP HAD MADE NO PROGRESS THUS FAR, AND THAT THE FRENCH HAD NOT AGREED TO JOIN ANYTHING (QUOI QUE CE SOIT"). BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS) ASKED WHETHER THE STANDARDIZATION DOCUMENT FOR DPC CONSIDERATION WOULD BE A COUNCIL OR DPC DOCUMENT. PANSA

REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SEPARATE DPC PAPER.

5. KILLICK (UK) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD PREFER TO CONDUCT THE RESTRICTED SESSION ON THE MORNING OF THE SECOND DAY OF THE MEETING. BUWALDA (NETHERLANDS) SUPPORTED UK. AFTER A LENGTHY SILENCE, PANSAL INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER ANY PERMREP EXCEPT US WOULD OBJECT TO RESTRICTED SESSION AS FIRST ITEM ON SECOND DAY OF MEETING. NO PERMREP RESPONDED, WHEREUPON BRUCE SAID HE WOULD REPORT HIS COLLEAGUES' VIEW ON TIMING OF RESTRICTED SESSION AND INFORM DPC OF RESULTS (REF D). COMMENT: WE ARE UNLIKELY TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR FIRST-DAY RESTRICTED SESSION, BUT FOR THE MOMENT HAVE FORMALLY RESERVED OUR POSITION. END COMMENT.

6. DE STAERCKE ASKED IF OTHER PERMREPS HAD DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR THE RESTRICTED SESSION. KRAPF (FRG) STATED THAT MOD LEBER WANTS TO DISCUSS CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS OF A MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN REPEAT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE WHICH ARE CHANGING AND MAY CONTINUE TO CHANGE BETWEEN NOW AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. COMMENT: DE FREITAA-CRUZ (PORTUGAL) WAS PRESENT. KRAPF'S OBVIOUS REFERENCE WAS TO PORTUGAL. END COMMENT. KRAPF ADDED THAT THERE MIGHT BE DEVELOPMENTS IN MBFR WHICH WOULD WARRANT DISCUSSION IN RESTRICTED SESSION. OTHER PERMREPS DID NOT HAVE RESTRICTED SESSION TOPICS TO SUGGEST.

7. MENZIES ASKED IF SYG LUNS PLANS TO INTRODUCE FLEXIBILITY STUDY TO MINISTERS IN ANY SEARCHING WAY, OR WHETHER HIS TREATMENT OF IT WILL BE ROUTINE. PANSAL RESPONDED THAT THE SYG INTENDS TO DRAW MINISTERS' ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT REPORT AND MAKE GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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REMARKS ON HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED. MENZIES INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER THE SYG EXPECTED ANY ATTEMPT TO DRAW OUT DISCUSSION OF NATO AWACS BEYOND A REPORT ON PRESENT FEASIBILITY STUDIES. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE COMPLEX DISCUSSIONS "NOT FAR DOWN THE ROAD" AND ASKED IF MINISTERS WOULD GET DOWN TO THE "NITTY-GRITTY", OR DELAY SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TO THE SPRING MEETING. ASYG TUCKER (DEFENSE SUPPORT) REPLIED THAT INTERNATIONAL STAFF ANTICIPATES PUTTING A PAPER BEFORE PERMREPS, THEN BEFORE MINISTERS, TO FOCUS ON CURRENT AWACS ISSUES. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE BEFORE MINISTERS IN DECEMBER WILL BE AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE A FIRM DECISION IN THE SPRING AND ON STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN BETWEEN THE DECEMBER AND SPRING MEETINGS. TUCKER SAID THAT HE EXPECTED MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION IN DECEMBER TO BE QUITE SUBSTANTIVE. MENZIES, NOTING THAT AWACS DID NOT APPEAR ON NAC AGENDA, ASKED PANSAL WHETHER A BRIDGING MECHANISM WAS NEEDED. PANSAL BRIEFLY DESCRIBED PROCEDURE WHEREBY VIEWS OF NAC (INCLUDING FRANCE AND GREECE) AS EXPRESSED BY PERMREPS ARE REPORTED TO DPC MINISTERS, THEN FRANCE AND GREECE ARE DEBRIEFED ON DPC MINISTERIAL DECISIONS.

8. SUMMING UP, PANSAL NOTED THAT DPC HAD DECIDED TO LEAVE STANDARDIZATION ITEM ON DPC AGENDA WITHOUT BRACKETS, TO CONDUCT

RESTRICTED SESSION AS FIRST ITEM ON SECOND DAY (SUBJECT TO
RESERVATION OF US), AND THAT PERMREPS WOULD PROVIDE RESTRICTED
SESSION TOPICS WHEN AVAILABLE. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON
AUTHORIZATION TO LIFT RESERVATION ON TIMING OF RESTRICTED
SESSION, AS REQUESTED REF D.BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

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